

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 7-12, and 21-27 are pending in the application. Claims 3-6, and 13-20 were previously canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 11, 12, 25, and 26 are currently amended. No new matter has been added.

§ 112 Rejection

The December 6, 2007 Office Communication indicates that “the reply filed on 9/21/06 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because ... the preamble [of claim 1] claims only an apparatus for pulling line (not an apparatus for pulling line in combination with the line)” and “[t]he lack of reasons for applicant’s traversal is considered to be an incomplete response.”

Applicant submits that the previous response was fully responsive. Nevertheless, in the interest of expediting allowance of the application, claim 1 is amended herein so that the preamble simply recites “An apparatus comprising.” Thus, Applicant submits that the preamble of claim 1 cannot be said to be inconsistent with the body of that claim or any dependent claim.

Claims 11, 12, 25, and 26 have also been amended to provide proper antecedent basis, in view of the amendment to claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Rejoinder

Withdrawn claims 21-26 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species. “When all claims to the nonelected invention(s) depend from or otherwise

require all the limitations of an allowable claim, applicant must be advised that claims drawn to the nonelected invention have been rejoined and the restriction requirement has been withdrawn.” MPEP § 821.04(a). In this case, claims 21-26 have been amended to depend from independent claim 1. Claim 1 was previously indicated as being generic, and is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests rejoiner of the withdrawn claims.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 2, 7-12, and 21-27 are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, rejoiner of the withdrawn claims, and issuance of a notice of allowance.

If any issue remains unresolved that would prevent allowance of this case, **the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney to resolve the issue.**

Respectfully submitted,

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